

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 NSC-05 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02

NEA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 /080 R

DRAFTED BY /PRS: IPERNICK:MG

APPROVED BY S/PRS - ROBERT L. FUNSETH

S/S - FVORTIZ

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P 112201Z JUL 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 163908 TOSEC 060116

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, JULY 11

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM FUNSETH,S/PRS

NO. 9

FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES ACTING SPOKESMAN FUNSETH'S RESPONSES
AT TODAY'S BRIEFING:

1. COL. MORGAN -- PRESS REPORTS FROM MIDDLE EAST THAT
U.S. IS INVOLVED IN ANY DISTRIBUTION OF FOODSTUFFS IN
BEIRUT ARE FALSE. ALL WE WISH TO SAY ON THIS DELICATE
SITUATION WHICH AFFECTS THE LIFE OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN
IS EMBASSY BEIRUT CONTINUES TO BE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH
GOL. PRESSED FURTHER, PRINCIPALLY BY NELSON OF REUTERS,
FUNSETH REPLIED TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THAT U.S. DID NOT
PROVIDE FOODSTUFFS BEING DISTRIBUTED, DID NOT ARRANGE
FOR PRIVATE SOURCES TO DISTRIBUTE THEM, DID NOT AGREE TO
AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THEIR DISTRIBUTION.

2. INCIDENT IN GULF OF THAILAND -- THE MASTER OF THE
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GATEWAY CITY, ON ARRIVAL AT SATTHAHIP REPORTED TO OUR

EMBASSY IN BANGKOK THAT WHILE SAILING FROM HONG KONG AND ABOUT 25 MILES FROM SATTHAHIP, HIS SHIP RECEIVED LIGHT WEAPONS FIRE FROM TWO UNIDENTIFIED FISHING BOATS. THERE WERE NO INJURIES. WE INFORMED THE THAI GOVT OF THE

INCIDENT, AND ADVISED THE MASTER TO KEEP IN CONTINUOUS RADIO CONTACT WITH US. YESTERDAY WE RECOMMENDED THAT THE DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY HYDROGRAPHIC CENTER ISSUE A NAVIGATIONAL WARNING. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO FIRED AT THE VESSEL. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THESE WERE FISHING BOATS UNDER CONTROL OR COMMAND OF SOME GOVERNMENT IN THE AREA. THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT ASKED FOR EITHER A MILITARY RESPONSE OR MILITARY SURVEILLANCE NOR DID IT BELIEVE ANY WAS REQUIRED.

3. DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL -- WE HAVE SEEN PRESS REPORTS BUT HAVE NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME.

4. CSCE -- ALTHOUGH CLOSE, FINAL AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED.

INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE163908
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IPERNICK:MG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750240-0806
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750762/aaaacdyt.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <16 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, JULY 11 FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM FUNSETH,S/PRS
TAGS: SOPN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (FUNSETH)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006